

Scrutiny Briefing Note

The Communities Scrutiny Panel have asked to monitor progress on the following issues. This briefing contains the latest position as at 29/01/2021.

Subject: Review of supplementary recycling provision – CRCs and Bring Sites

North East Lincolnshire Council's (NELC) Waste service aims to provide adequate and efficient waste and recycling services and facilities for residents and visitors to the borough to:

- encourage responsible waste handling,
- increase the take up of recycling,
- look after our environment and
- ensure a clean and tidy street scene.

Waste Services provide waste and recycling facilities which include provision of a kerbside waste and recycling collection service, public litter bins, Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) and Bring Sites in certain locations.

Use of Bring Sites in the borough was shown to be decreasing when last reviewed in 2019. Recent improvements to kerbside recycling collections are expected to further impact on the use of Bring Sites. Most households in the borough have now been issued with two 240l recycling bins to replace the triple recycling boxes previously used, increasing the capacity available to them to dispose of household recycling. The last review found that paper and card were the one commodity that had not reduced at Bring Sites, but since one of the 240l bins recently issued is solely for paper and card this is rapidly changing.

Crews collecting from the Bring Sites report that volumes of recycling left at the sites have decreased since the new recycling bins have been issued, no excess waste was experienced at these sites during the busy Christmas period and kerbside recycling rates have increased by 19% on 2019 figures. The successful introduction and continuation of the Bulky Waste collection service is also expected to reduce the need for Bring Sites, giving residents further alternative methods of waste disposal.

The introduction of new schemes to improve recycling and eliminate waste that are expected to be introduced by DEFRA (Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs) within the next few years will further reduce the need for Bring Sites. Most notably:

- a tax on packaging with less than 30% recyclable material which it is hoped will reduce the volume of material used for packaging.
- a deposit return scheme to encourage members of the public to recycle plastic bottles with retailers rather than disposing of them in their household waste or at Bring Sites.



We are also considering best practice from other Local Authorities already having completed similar improvements to kerbside collections, evidencing a reduced need for Bring Sites following the change in collection model.

To ensure a good offer of supplementary recycling facilities remain available to residents, work is underway to explore options to improve the CRC provision in the borough, further helping residents to dispose of their waste and recycling responsibly. This project may see two new, purpose-built Community Recycling Centres that are easy to access and use, improving the flow of traffic and ease of disposal to cut down on waiting times. Options for site locations are currently under review with an ambition to provide better geographical coverage for all residents in the borough.

With Bring Site use reducing and sites often attracting fly tipped waste and requiring regular maintenance and refurbishment, it is proposed that a review is undertaken of the remaining sites with a view to removing some or all of these. This would release staff to concentrate on other priority tasks. A reduction in sites would also deliver further savings in relation to costs of vehicles, fuel, equipment, waste disposal and fly tipping removal.

A full options appraisal is planned for March 2021, once the impact from the planned change in recycling collection schedule can be fully assessed. The following options will be considered:

1. Do nothing – continue with current sites.
2. Complete removal of all sites by Autumn 2021.
3. Removal of least used sites (50%) by Autumn 2021 with retention of remaining sites.
4. Gradual removal of all sites, with least used sites (50%) removed by Autumn 2021 and remaining sites removed by Autumn 2022.

Further consideration is also required in respect of textile/clothing/shoe recycling containers located at Bring Sites across the borough. These recycling containers are not the property of NELC, and there have been no requests made to us to seek approval for these containers to be sited at their current locations. NELC's Assets team confirmed the following:

- Units that are sited on NELC owned land: Assets/Estates could engage with the owners to facilitate their removal.
- Units that are sited on NELC owned car parks are outside of Assets/Estates team's jurisdiction.
- Units that are on private or leased land: the landowner or tenant would need to be engaged.

The final report is expected to go before Cabinet in summer 2021, with further opportunity for input from Communities Scrutiny Panel as part of this process.

A presentation will be given to Community Scrutiny Panel on 4 February 2021 to consult on the process of proposed review, allow for public representation and answer any questions that may arise. We would welcome input from Scrutiny on any concerns around these proposals, to ensure these are appropriately considered as part of the planned options appraisal.

Contact Officer: Chris Dunn, Deputy Head of Operations

chris.dunn@nelincs.gov.uk - 01472 324394



If you require any further information please contact the named officer or alternatively,

Name Zoe Campbell

Scrutiny and Committee Advisor

Tel: 323838

If you would like to find out more about scrutiny you can contact us:

by email democracy@nelincs.gov.uk

on our website www.nelc.gov.uk/council/councillors-democracy-elections-/scrutiny/

or by post NELC Scrutiny Team,

Municipal Offices,

Town Hall Square,

GRIMSBY

DN31 1HU.

